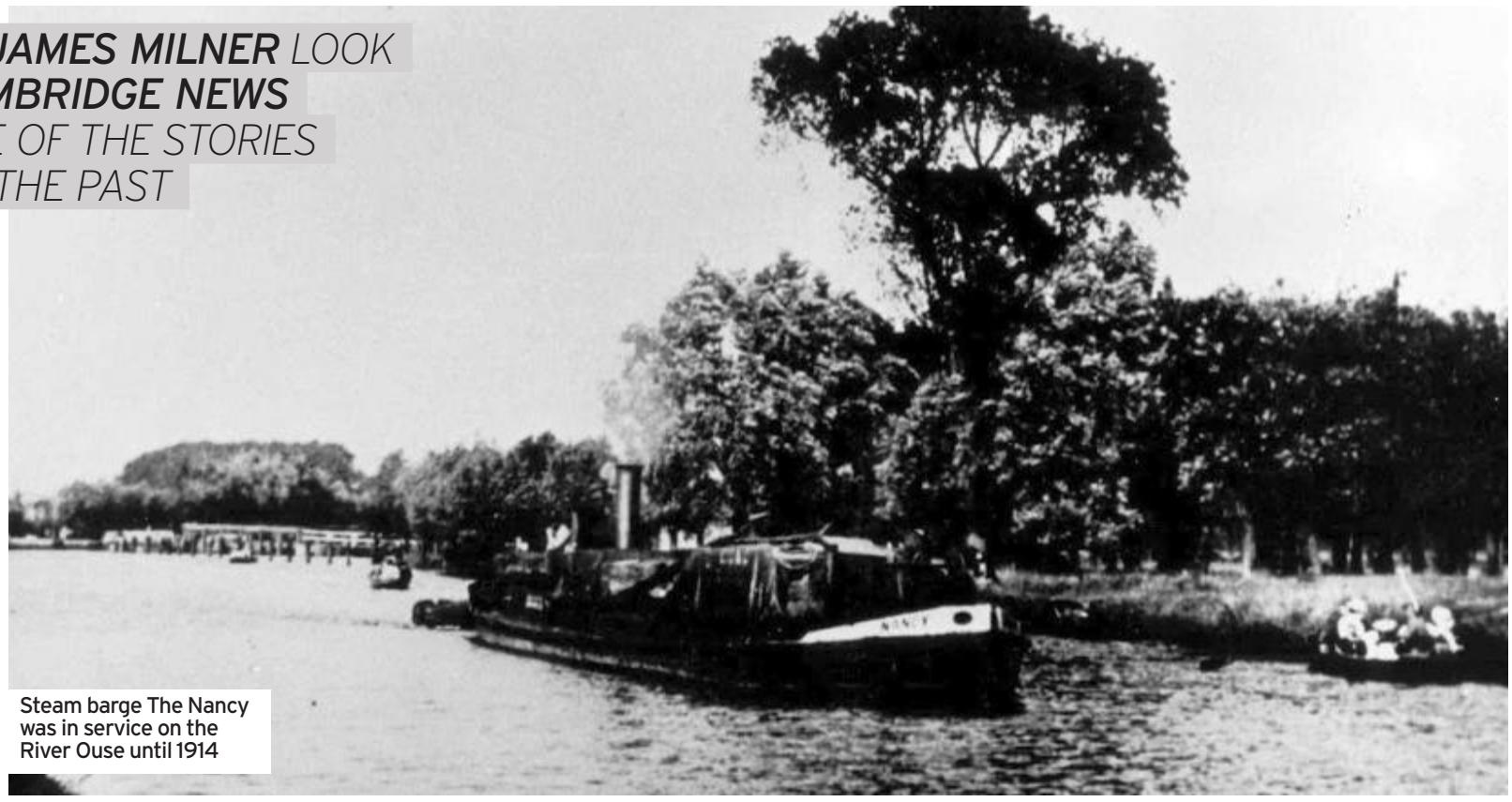
NOSTALGIA

# Magistrates advise calling time on controversial American movie

*MIKE PETTY AND JAMES MILNER LOOK THROUGH THE CAMBRIDGE NEWS ARCHIVES AT SOME OF THE STORIES FROM THIS DAY IN THE PAST*



Steam barge The Nancy was in service on the River Ouse until 1914

## Well-established firm closes – 1981

WARDS have been in Cambridge for more than 70 years, originally making and selling cycles.

By the 1930s, they were involved in electronics, making their own wireless receiver, the Wards Three Valve.

In the 1950s, they expanded into communications, selling televisions and other electronic equipment, moving from East Road to a new shop in Burleigh Street in 1965 with another in Bradwell's Court.

At its peak in the 1970s, they won contracts with Iraq and the Defence Ministry.

Now it will close for the last time.

The closure of Wards, means another long-established name will disappear from the streets of Cambridge.

Recently, Jack Carter, the outfitters in Portugal Place, announced it was to close, before that Johnsons menswear shop in Sidney Street decided to end 150 years of trading and, last year, Walker Wallpapers, a family firm for nearly 60 years, also called it a day.

Reasons vary from rising rates and rent bills to increased competition or simply that the old family has run out of members.

## Steam barge remains unearthed – 1981

EXCAVATION work on a new marina at Annesdale, Ely, is unearthing remains of The Nancy, a steam-driven cargo barge which plied the River Ouse until she was laid up in 1914.

It was then towed near the railway bridge to be cut up for scrap but the work proved too expensive and it was left to rot until the 1940s when the Ouse was widened.

It was then in the way so Ted Appleyard dug a hole on the Babylon site, dragged it out of the water and dumped her in it.

## Bridge repair dispute settled – 1978

THE long-running dispute over responsibility for repairing the only bridge over the Old West River which gives access for thousands of visitors each year to the Stretham Pumping Station has been settled.

The county council and a local farming company have agreed to pay £1,000 each towards the cost of repairs.

The dispute began two years ago when the county closed the bridge because some of the structure had collapsed and part of the roadway had fallen into the river.

Now, it will be rebuilt and a bus turning area constructed for visitors to the engine which is preserved as a museum attracting industrial archaeologists.

## Don't rock around the clock – 1956

CAMBRIDGE Licensing Magistrates have asked Associated British Cinemas not to show the controversial American musical film 'Rock Around the Clock.'

The film features a new style of dancing known as 'rock 'n' roll.' It is a rhythm similar to some of the African native 'beats' and is alleged to have a startling effect on young people who like 'hot music.'

In London, dancing youngsters have caused trouble in the streets and assaults have been made on the police.

## Toll boy, 10, in court over job – 1953

A FORMER Witcham toll boy, aged ten, who appeared before Ely juvenile court was said to have earned £2.5s a week looking after children's roundabouts at Hunstanton.

He lived there with his parents and seven other children aged from three to 15 years in two small tents and a number of corrugated-iron sheds roughly knocked together and they had to crawl on all fours.

It was altogether deplorable that children, man and wife should be permitted to live in such primitive circumstances.

## Conservators let down by furniture – 1952

ONE of these days, while in session at the annual meeting at Clayhithe, the conservators of the Cam might be let down – badly and literally.

The chairs in the board room are so rotted and worm-eaten that they are no longer safe to sit on.

The large mahogany table running the length of the room is affected too.

So are the floorboards and other parts of the house.

Their launch, Richwing, was kept afloat by tar and canvas and it was necessary to take it out of the water and re-plank her.

## Curfew bell to be rung again – 1946

GREAT St Mary's curfew bell is to be rung again the for first time since the war.

It will sound at 9am, followed by a number of strokes indicating the date of the month.

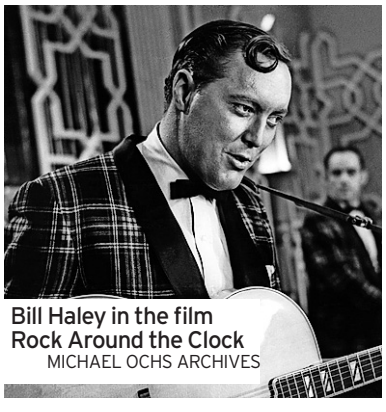
Until 1929, a bell was rung at 5am, this, 'The Apprentice's Bell,' later 'The Bedmakers' Bell,' was discontinued as it not needed now there were alarm clocks.

## New pumping stations opened – 1936

SOUTH Cambs RDC's water scheme was inaugurated with the opening of the new pumping station between Linton and Hildersham.

Previously, water had to be carted to two parishes and it is hoped that every household within reasonable distance of the mains would take a supply.

Councillors then visited the water tower on Rivey Hill where most climbed to the top and inspected the 87,000 gallon tank.



Bill Haley in the film Rock Around the Clock
MICHAEL OCHS ARCHIVES

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